

P20918.A03



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Fred ZACOUTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Appln. No. : 10/040,429

(Continuation of US application 09/200,855)

Examiner: B. Snow

Filed : January 9, 2002

For : SKELETAL IMPLANT

**SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

Prior to calculating the filing fee and prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments which incorporate amendments made in the parent application:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

*Please replace the paragraph between lines 4-8 on page 7 of the specification with the following (see Appendix 1 for changes):*

B<sup>1</sup> This valve can initially be closed during the formation of the callus. Thus the implant is perfectly rigid and behaves like a classic screw. The valve is then opened so that the implant functions according to the invention, with its shock-absorbing function. A valve

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